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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/612,911

Examiner

Aaron Roane

Applicant(s)

TONE ET AL.

Art Unit

3739

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 1/31/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 6,9-14,16-21 and 23-25.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 200604101.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Lee Stepina (Reg. No. 56,837) on 4/10/2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

On page 1 of the present specification insert between the title "STEAM GENERATOR" and the header "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION" the following:

STATEMENT OF RELATED APPLICATIONS

The patent application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/929,000 filed 08/15/2001 now issued as U.S. Patent 6,824,557.

Claim amendments:

Claims 15 and 22 have been cancelled.

Claim 6 has been rewritten as follows:

A steam generator comprising: a steam generation portion comprising a steam-generating composition and pulp fiber as a support so as to inhibit movement of the steam generating composition, the steam-generating composition including a metal powder, activated carbon and a salt to be reacted with water and adapted to discharge steam as the metal powder is oxidized; and an adhesive layer provided on a surface of the steam generator adapted to be applied to at least one of skin or mucosa of a user of the steam generator, wherein the steam-generating composition is disposed in pore-like structures of a paper sheet and the adhesive layer includes at least one opening through which the steam or water vapor is discharged from the steam-generating composition, wherein the adhesive layer includes at least one of a cosmetic and a pharmaceutical component that includes a peeling agent, and the peeling agent includes at least a protease.

Claim 16 has been rewritten as follows:

The steam generator according to Claim 6, wherein the at least one of a cosmetic and a pharmaceutical component further includes at least one of a blood circulation enhancer, a

Art Unit: 3739

swelling reduction agent, a slimming agent, a painkiller, a moisture retaining agent, a depilating agent, and an autonomic regulating agent.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 22, which was previously objected to but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, was amended into independent form by incorporating the subject matter of claims 15 and 22 into claim 6.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron Roane whose telephone number is (571) 272-4771. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7AM-6PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Linda Dvorak can be reached on (571) 272-4764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3739

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A.R. *A.R.*
April 17, 2006

Roy D. Gibson
ROY D. GIBSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER